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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph on page 5, lines 17-25 with the following amended paragraph:

For clarity purposes, the collection channels 10a and 10b (running along the lateral surfaces 80, 90 of the stack 1) for supplying (channels 10a) and discharging (channels 10b) fluid in the stack 1 are depicted in figure 2. They run along the sides of the stack and are connected with each of the fuel cells of the stack 1 via the respective channels 7a and 7b of the fuel cells. Preferably the collection channels 10a and 10b are open at one end, e.g. in the case of the first fuel cell of the stack 1, and connected to the fluid supply unit of the stack, while the other end (in the case of the last fuel cell) is blind, i.e. closed. An electrical load 8 is connected to an anode 5 or a cathode 6 via a conductor 9.

Please replace paragraph on page 7, lines 3-7 with the following amended paragraph:

The channels 7a, indicated by broken lines, run in the anode area 22, and hydrogen flows through them in the direction of flow indicated by the arrows ~~32-36~~ and ~~33-41~~, thereby covering the membrane 4 substantially evenly over the corresponding membrane section 26. In the cathode area 23 the channels 7b for even transport of oxygen or ambient air run across the other side of the membrane section 26.